

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 02896 251705 Z

51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 IO-13 RSR-01 /088 W
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R 251645 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9359
INFO USINT ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 2896

E. O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINS MO
SUBJ: KENITRA TRIAL OPENS

1. MILITARY TRIAL OF 157 PERSONS ACCUSED IN CONNECTION WITH MARCH EVENTS BEGAN JUNE 25 AT KENITRA. LIST OF THOSE ON TRIAL PUBLISHED IN ISTIQLALI DAILY " AL ALAM" SAME DAY INCLUDES PROMINENT UNFP/ RABAT MEMBERS OMAR BENJELLOUN AND MOHAMED EL YAZHGHI. TRIAL IS EXPECTED TO TAKE SOME TIME, PERHAPS UPWARDS TO THREE WEEKS, AND TO RESULT IN ANUMBER OF DEATH SENTENCES. ACCUSED ARE REPRESENTED BY BATTERY OF ABOUT 100 LAWYERS, MOST OF WHOM WERE APPOINTED BY THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, ACCORDING TO THE MOROCCAN NEWS AGENCY (MAP). AMONG THOSE PARTICIPATING IN DEFENSE IS ISTIQLALI LEADER (AND FORMER MINISTER OF JUSTICE) M' HAMMED BOUCETTA. MAP ALSO REPORTS THAT TWO ALGERIAN LAWYERS WILL ATTEND TRIAL AS OBSERVERS.

2. NUMBER OF ACCUSED IN CONNECTION WITH MARCH ATTACKS HAS GROWN STEADILY SINCE INITIAL MINISTRY OF INTERIOR COMMUNIQUE MARCH 8 SAYING THREE PERSONS HAD PARTICIPATED IN ATTACK, AND SECOND COMMUNIQUE MARCH 14 REPORTING THAT THREE REBELS HAD BEEN KILLED, ELEVEN WERE UNDER ARREST AND TWO AT LARGE. LIST OF NAMES PUBLISHED BY " AL ALAM" SUGGESTS THAT REBELS WHO INFILTRATED HAD ACCOMPLICES AMONG LOCAL BERBER TRIBESMEN. TWO FAMILY NAMES (AZZAM AND BOUABDALLAH) APPEAR SEVEN TIMES, AND OTHER CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 RABAT 02896 251705 Z

RECOGNIZABLY BERBER NAMES (AMAHZOUN, AMEZZIANE) ALSO CROP UP FREQUENTLY. ONE KEY TO TRIAL WILL BE WHETHER STATE CAN PRODUCE EVIDENCE LINKING URBAN INTELLECTUALS (TEACHERS, LAWYERS, JOURNALISTS AND ONE DOCTOR, ACCORDING TO AL ALAM"), WITH RURAL PEOPLE WHO APPARENTLY DID THE FIGHTING.
ROCKWELL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973RABAT02896
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730632/aaaajrya.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <19-Oct-2001 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 980303
Subject: KENITRA TRIAL OPENS
TAGS: PINS, MO
To: AF
ALGIERS
CASABLANCA
PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

